

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/840,824

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of mounting a pneumatic radial tire comprising a spiral belt formed by spirally winding a cord along a circumferential direction of a crown portion of the tire, and a pair of cross belt members arranged on an outer circumferential side of the spiral belt and in parallel to each other in a common plane in a circumferential direction of the tire so as to be disposed on opposite sides of an equatorial plane of the tire and separated by an opening space, wherein cords of one of the cross belt members extend in a direction opposite to cords of the other one of the cross belt members with respect to the equatorial plane, the method comprising mounting the tire onto a front wheel of a vehicle such that the cords of the pair of cross belt members have an acute angle of inclination with respect to the equatorial plane in a forward rotating direction of the tire.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of mounting a pneumatic radial tire comprising a spiral belt formed by spirally winding a cord along a circumferential direction of a crown portion of the tire, and a pair of cross belt members arranged on an outer circumferential side of the spiral belt and in parallel to each other in a common plane in a circumferential direction of the

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tire so as to be disposed on opposite sides of an equatorial plane of the tire and separated by an opening space, wherein cords of one of the cross belt members extend in a direction opposite to cords of the other one of the cross belt members with respect to the equatorial plane, the method comprising mounting the tire onto a rear wheel of a vehicle such that the cords of the pair of cross belt members have an obtuse angle of inclination with respect to the equatorial plane in a forward rotating direction of the tire.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of mounting first and second pneumatic radial tires each comprising a spiral belt formed by spirally winding a cord along a circumferential direction of a crown portion of the tire, and a pair of cross belt members arranged on an outer circumferential side of the spiral belt and in parallel to each other in a common plane in a circumferential direction of the tire so as to be disposed on opposite sides of an equatorial plane of the tire and separated by an opening space, wherein cords of one of the cross belt members extend in a direction opposite to cords of the other one of the cross belt members with respect to the equatorial plane, the method comprising mounting the first tire onto a front wheel of a vehicle such that the cords of the pair of cross belt members have an acute angle of inclination with respect to the equatorial plane in a forward rotating direction of the first tire, and mounting the second tire onto a rear wheel of the vehicle such that the cords of the pair of cross belt members have an obtuse angle of inclination with respect to the equatorial plane in the forward rotating direction of the second tire.

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4. (Original) A method of mounting a pneumatic radial tire according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a steel cord having an initial tensile strength of no less than 50cN/cord is used in any one of the spiral belt and the pair of the cross belt members.

5. (Original) A method of mounting a pneumatic radial tire according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a organic fiber cord having an initial tensile strength of no less than 50cN/cord is used in any one of the spiral belt and the pair of the cross belt members.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of mounting a pneumatic radial tire according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the pair of cross belt members are arranged ~~at the spiral belt as an outer layer or an inner layer~~ so as to make an angle of the cord constituting each belt member with respect to the equatorial plane within a range of 80-20° as measured at the side of an acute angle, and a total width of the pair of cross belt members including the opening space is 150-70% of a tread width and a width of the opening space is 1-50 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic radial tire comprising:
a spiral belt including a cord spirally wound along a circumferential direction of a crown portion of the tire, and
first and second cross belt members arranged on an outer circumferential side of the spiral belt and in parallel to each other in a common plane in a circumferential direction of the tire so as to be disposed on opposites sides of an equatorial plane of the tire and separated by an

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opening space, wherein cords of the first cross belt member extend in a direction opposite to cords of the second cross belt member with respect to the equatorial plane.

8. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic radial tire according to claim 7, wherein the cords of the first and second of cross belt members have an acute angle of inclination with respect to the equatorial plane.

9. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic radial tire according to claim 8, wherein the angle of inclination of the cords of the first and second of cross belt members with respect to the equatorial plane is 20 to 80 degrees as measured at the side of an acute angle.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic radial tire according to claim 10, wherein a total width of the first and second cross belt members including the opening space is 70-150% of a tread width and a width of the opening space is 1-50 mm.